

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of exchanging a short message service (SMS) message between networks operating in accordance with different standards, comprising:
 - ~~establishing~~ operating an intermediary system that operates between a first network operating in accordance with a first standard and a second network operating in accordance with a second standard;
 - receiving, at the intermediary, a routing information request for an SMS message from the first network;
 - sending, from the intermediary in response to the routing information request, an acknowledgement message to the first network;
 - receiving the SMS message at the intermediary;
 - generating, in the intermediary, an acknowledgement of receipt of the SMS message, and sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network; and
 - sending the SMS message from the intermediary to the second network,
 - wherein the intermediary is an entity distinct from the first and second networks.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first network operates in accordance with GSM standards.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second network operates in accordance with ANSI standards.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediary system emulates a mobile switching center operating in accordance with GSM standards.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the routing information request is a MAP Send Routing Information for MT SMS message in accordance with GSM standards.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing a GTT look up to determine to which switch the SMS message should be sent.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein when the SMS message is directed to a mobile station (MS) operating in the second network, the SMS message is routed to the intermediary system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network is performed only after a response from the second network is received at the intermediary system.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network is performed only after an acknowledgement of receipt of the SMS message is received from the second network at the intermediary system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediary operates, from the perspective of the first network, as a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), in accordance with the same standards as the standards of the first network.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediary operates, from the perspective of the second network, as a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), in accordance with the same standards as the standards of the second network.

12. (Original) A system for exchanging a short message service (SMS) message between networks operating in accordance with different standards, comprising:

an intermediary system that operates between a first network operating in accordance with a first standard and a second network operating in accordance with a second standard;

means for receiving, at the intermediary, a routing information request for an SMS message from the first network;

means for sending, from the intermediary in response to the routing information request, an acknowledgement message to the first network;

means for receiving the SMS message at the intermediary;

means for generating, in the intermediary, an acknowledgement of receipt of the SMS message, and for sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network; and
means for sending the SMS message from the intermediary to the second network,
wherein the intermediary is an entity distinct from the first and second networks.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first network operates in accordance with GSM standards.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the second network operates in accordance with ANSI standards.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediary system emulates a mobile switching center operating in accordance with GSM standards.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the routing information request is a MAP Send Routing Information for MT SMS message in accordance with GSM standards.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising means for performing a GTT look up to determine to which switch the SMS message should be sent.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein when the SMS message is directed to a mobile station (MS) operating in the second network, the SMS message is routed to the intermediary system.

19. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network is performed only after a response from the second network is received at the intermediary system.

20. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein sending the acknowledgement of receipt to the first network is performed only after an acknowledgement of receipt of the SMS message is received from the second network at the intermediary system.

21. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediary operates, from the perspective of the first network, as a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), in accordance with the same standards as the standards of the first network.

22. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediary operates, from the perspective of the second network, as a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), in accordance with the same standards as the standards of the second network.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for exchanging a short message service (SMS) message between networks operating in accordance with different standards, comprising:

an intermediary network system connected simultaneously to a first network operating in accordance with a first standard and a second network operating in accordance with a second standard, the intermediary comprising an intermediary gateway providing an SS7 interface on one side thereof and an IP interface on another side thereof, the intermediary gateway being in communication with a home location register (HLR), mobile switching center/visitor location register (MSC/VLR) and short message service center (SMSC) of the second network; the intermediary gateway comprising an intermediary Location Register, an intermediary Transmitting Station, and an intermediary Receiving Station, each of which substantially emulate, respectively, HLR functionality, GSM SMSC functionality and MSC functionality,

wherein the GSM SMSC functionality comprises sending appropriately timed acknowledgement messages to a GSM-compliant network when the SMS message is being exchanged with an ANSI-compliant network.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein an acknowledgement of receipt to the first network is sent only after a response from the second network is received at the intermediary network system.

25. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein an acknowledgement of receipt to the first network is sent only after an acknowledgement of receipt of the SMS message is received from the second network at the intermediary network system.